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NOTIFICATION

SIKKIM STATE YOUTH POLICY-2018

Whereas, Sikkim is a relatively young State and one of the most progressive states of the Indian Union, Sikkim has shown that good governance and people's participation can propel a State to great heights of development. Yet challenges are plenty and the state needs to adapt methods which use the best practices of traditional and modern paradigms which can assure unhindered development in all spheres;

And whereas, as per 2011 Census, Sikkim has a population of 6.11 Lakhs, an increase from figure of 5.41 Lakh in 2001 Census. The total population of Sikkim as per the 2011 census is 6,10,577 of which males and females are 323,070 and 287,507 respectively. The population of Sikkim forms 0.05 percent of country's population in 2011;

And whereas, out of total population of Sikkim, 25.15% people live in urban areas. The total figure of population living in urban areas is 153,578 of which 80,273 are males and remaining 73,305 are females. The urban population in the last 10 years has increased by 25.15 percent;

And whereas, of the total population of Sikkim, around 74.85 percent live in the villages. The total population of rural areas of Sikkim State was 456,999 out of which 242,797 were males and 214,202 were females. The population growth rate recorded for the decade 2001-2011 was 74.85%;

And whereas, as per the details from Census 2011, Sikkim has a youth (15-29 years) population of 2.13 Lakhs approximately which comprises of 28.7% of total population of Sikkim; And whereas, the Government of Sikkim recognizes the potential of the youth and youth-friendly schemes and such programmes are given great impetus. Education and Skill building have remained high priority areas of the Government. Sports persons from Sikkim have

excelled in the local, national and international stages. It is evident that there is tremendous potential in the youth of the State towards attaining self-development and in becoming a true partner in the development process. Therefore, to harness the youth energy, it is imperative to formulate a concrete **State Youth Policy along the lines of the National Youth Policy** to realize full potential of the youth of Sikkim;

And whereas, the National Youth Policy 2014 aims to create a productive workforce contributing to India's economic development, a strong and healthy generation, promotes social values and community services, facilitate participation and civic engagement, support youth at risk and create equitable opportunity for all the disadvantaged and marginalized youth. The priority areas are focused on education, skill development and employment, entrepreneurship, health and healthy life style, sports, promotion of social values, community engagement, participation in politics and governance, youth engagement and social justice. It will cover the entire country catering to the needs of all youth in the age-group of 15-29 years, which constitutes 27.5 per cent of the population according to Census 2011;

Now therefore, with a view to achieve the following objectives, the State Government hereby notifies the Sikkim State Youth Policy 2018 which lays upon the youth development programmes as under:

I. Objectives:

1. To provide youth with proper educational and training opportunities with access of youth to all information on opportunities to take up economically productive activities and also promote and popularize self-employment initiatives among the youth.
2. To create awareness among youth about history, heritage, art and culture and promote cultural heritage of the state. All the youth development initiatives should ensure gender justice, guard against discrimination on the basis of age, race, caste, creed, gender, sexual orientation, ideological proclivities and disability and respect for human rights.
3. To promote a culture of active citizenship among the youth and help them become responsible adults who care for their families and society and to inculcate value or respect and services toward aged and elders, and to promote supportive family and community environment.
4. To enhance the skill of the youth to equip them to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing and globalizing India.

II. Vision:

The vision of the Sikkim State Youth Policy 2018 is to make the youth productively enabled, motivated, engaged and empowered to accomplish their full potential, lead healthy lives, be academically progressive, secure productive livelihoods, have a decisive say in their future and be an active participant and contribute to the growth and development of the state and nation.

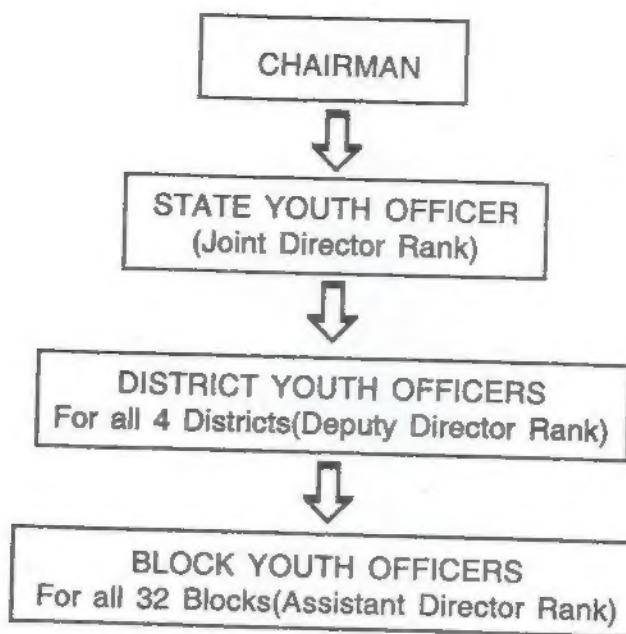
III. The special focus of the Sikkim State Youth Policy 2018 emphasized as under:

1. Girls and Young Women should enjoy equal opportunities, life chances and status with equal access to resources as men and public places and work places should be made safe and secure for girls and young women.

2. Youth from the villages suffer from multiple disadvantages despite several initiatives meant to empower them and to ensure that they benefit from all the youth programmes.
3. Adolescents are often forced to abandon their studies prior to completion, even when they want to continue, on account of a number of social and economic circumstances. As a result, they either have nothing to do and thus become vulnerable to negative social influences or they are obliged to take low pay jobs to support their families. The problems faced by this group of youth need to be addressed with a sense of urgency.
4. Imparting appropriate educational and vocational skills to youth with disability and facilitating their easy mobility and use of public spaces will be a priority for the state. Although there are provisions for job reservations for persons with disability, opportunities for them need to be expanded.

IV. Some key strategies for the implementation of Sikkim Youth Policy 2018 are as under:

1. The Department of Sports and Youth affairs will function as the Nodal Department and the "Sikkim Youth Development Board (SYDB)" under it as the nodal agency for the implementation of the policy by establishing an appropriate coordination mechanism.
2. Human Resource Development Department, Department of Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare, Directorate of Technical Education, Health Department, Rural Management & Development Department, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management, Department of Cultural Affairs and Heritage, Department of Tourism, Department of Information and Public Relations, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department, Food Security and Agricultural Development Department, Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Home Department, Finance, Revenue and Expenditure Department and Commerce and Industries Department have significant components in their policies and programmes that are relevant to youth.
3. The High-Powered Committee will be chaired by the Chief Minister with the Ministers of all concerned Departments as members apart from the Chief Secretary, Development Commissioner and Finance Secretary. The High-Powered Committee will review the implementation of Youth Policy and give it future direction wherever required. The Secretary, Sports and Youth Affairs Department will be the Member Secretary of the High-Powered Committee.
4. A task force under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary will be formed with Secretaries of concerned Departments presenting each thematic areas of SSYP. The Chairman SYDB will head the task force. The task force will set out criteria and draw up a list of indicators for measuring the progress at State, District, Block and Sub-block levels. At the District level, District Collector will be responsible for coordination among different line Departments.
5. The hierarchy of the Task Force, Monitoring and Implementation of Programmes as stated under Sikkim State Youth Policy to be carried out by Sikkim Youth Development Board (SYDB) will have the following structure:



6. The Sikkim Youth Development Board will develop a five-year perspective plan supported by annual work plans and maintain data base on the progress made in each thematic areas. The annual reports will be submitted to the High-Powered Committee indicating the progress, identifying gaps in the programmes and schemes and recommend future action.
7. There is a need to mobilize and bring more and more agencies as partners and stakeholders for a democratic youth development process. This will entail convergence of effort and resources of the state sponsored youth-related agencies, international agencies, corporate sector, non-governmental organizations and community based organizations.
8. The "State Institute of Youth Development" will be an independent and autonomous Institution under Department of Sports and Youth Affairs. It will design high quality capacity building programme in collaboration with renowned national and international institutions.
9. In every District there will be a 'Youth Counseling Centre'. It will work under the stewardship of the District Collector. The YCC will also ensure greater cooperation among the youth clubs, public institutions and local self-government. The active engagement of NCC, NSS, Bharat Scout and Guide will be ensured at school and college levels, in addition to coordination with NYK programmes in the state by SYDB.

V. Monitoring and Evaluation:

Monitoring and Evaluation framework will be developed to objectively track progress on the interventions under each thematic areas and present findings to the task force in a timely manner for taking mid-course correction. The Evaluation on the Youth Policy will be carried out through neutral and credible agencies once every three years and the results will be placed before the High-Powered Committee and programs and interventions will be tweaked and designed on the basis of these results and as per evolving needs of the youth in the State.

The proposal to formulate a State Youth Policy comes at a time when Sikkim is witnessing a paradigm shift in the mindset of the public, necessarily the youth, to come forward and contribute constructively to the development process of the State. A comprehensive and inclusive State Youth Policy will pave the way for a formalized structure which will work exclusively for the development of the youth. The policy would also help the Government understand the requirement of the youth better and thus incorporate them in the larger plans and policies of the State.

Sikkim State Youth Policy will be spearheaded by the Sports and Youth Affairs Department, Government of Sikkim, in collaboration with all the stakeholders.
By order and in the name of the Governor.

Chief Secretary
Government of Sikkim